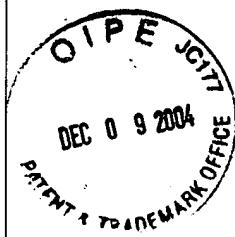


Attorney Docket
33216 M 038.1



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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CONFIRMATION NO. 3830

Applicants : Noboru MASUDA, et al.

Serial No. : 10/617,865 Art Unit : 1762

Filed : July 14, 2003 Examiner : Frederick John PARKER

For : Intermittent Coating Apparatus and Intermittent Coating Method

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

This is in response to the Office Action mailed November 9, 2004. A response is due by December 9, 2004.

Initially, Applicants call the Examiner's attention to item 4 on the Office Action Summary sheet which indicates that claims 24-48 are pending in the application. By the Preliminary Amendment filed with this divisional application on July 14, 2003, claims 1-23 and claims 26-30 were cancelled. It is noted that cancelled claims 26-30 were not included in any of the groups of claims set forth by the Examiner as directed to the alleged six inventions contained in the subject application.

The Action alleged that the subject application is directed to six patentably distinct inventions, and required restriction from among the following:

Invention I of claims 24 and 25, drawn to intermittent dispensing using a bellowphragm;

Invention II of claims 31-33, drawn to an intermittent coating apparatus with a mixer;

Invention III of claims 34, 35 and 38, drawn to a method with an intermittent start/stop and return;

Invention IV of claims 36 and 37, drawn to intermittent coating utilizing suction;

Invention V of claim 39, drawn to intermittent coating utilizing a mixer; and

Invention VI of claims 40-48, drawn to intermittent extrusion coating.

Applicants elect the invention of Group III, claims 34, 35 and 38, for examination in this application.

Applicants reserve the right to file divisional application(s) for the non-elected claims in due course.

Applicants submit that this application now is in condition for examination on the merits and early action in that regard is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP


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December 9, 2004